

November 14, 1949.

Dr. O. Maaløe,  
State Serum Institute,  
Dept. Biological Standards,  
Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dear Dr. Maaløe:

I would be very glad to accede to your request on behalf of Dr. Westergaard for fertile strains of *E. coli* K-12. However, I have sometimes had bad luck in such transatlantic shipments, and I would like to propose that you get them closer at hand.

Dr. Luigi Cavalli, Dept. Genetics, University of Cambridge, England has been working for some time now on recombination problems, and has received all of the strains that you would need for your investigations. He, like myself, is of course also interested in the problem you proposed. I am sure that Dr. Cavalli would be glad to tranship these strains to you, which should save considerable time. I am enclosing annote to Cavalli, which may save any residual and unnecessary hesitation.

When Westergaard & Mithhell's paper on the use of low-nitrogen medium to stimulate fertility in *Neurospora* first appeared, we attempted the same sort of thing with *E. coli*, with no significant results. However, these experiments were not such as to close the question. Cavalli and I are both convinced that salts may play an important role, beyond their growth effects, but I have so far done very little with this, and have not heard the latest from Cavalli. Needless to say, we are both very pleased to hear of Westergaard's interest, and will be grateful to hear of his results.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Assistant Professor of Genetics